

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a magnetic hinge defining a hinge axis, wherein the magnetic hinge comprising:

comprises

a. a first hinge plate of non-magnetic material;

b. at least one first magnet disposed in said first plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;

c. a second hinge plate of non-magnetic material; and

d. at least one second magnet disposed in said second plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;

said first and second plates being movable about the hinge axis between:

i. a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and

ii. an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping and in opposite magnetic orientations, said first and second magnets being coplanar and aligned along a common axis;

wherein the device further comprises a cosmetic associated with the second hinge plate.

2. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 1 wherein said first plate and said at least one first magnet are readily manually separable from said second plate and said at least one second magnet to deconstruct said hinge.

3. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 1 wherein said first plate and said at least one first magnet are more readily manually separable from said second plate and said at least one second magnet to deconstruct said hinge when said plates are in the open orientation than when said plates are in the closed orientation.

4. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 2 wherein said first plate and said at least one first magnet are readily manually joinable with said second plate and said at least one second magnet to reconstitute said hinge.

5. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 1 characterized by a lack of stability when said plates are intermediate said closed and open orientations.

6. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 1 wherein, in said open orientation, said first and second plates are disposed in a common plane, and said first and second magnets are closely adjacent in said common plane.

7. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 1 wherein, in said closed orientation, said first and second plates are disposed in two parallel planes, and said first and second magnets are closely adjacent and superposed in said two parallel

planes.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a [[A]] cosmetic case, incorporating the hinge of Claim 1, one of said plates defining a base of said case, and the other of said plates defining a cover of said case, said base and cover being movable between said closed and open orientations.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein said first and second plates are pivotable about the hinge axis between said closed and open orientations.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 9 wherein the hinge axis is stationary during pivoting of said plates.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 9 wherein the hinge axis is relocated during pivoting of said plates.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge is devoid of a physical hinge pin.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge is bistable.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 13 wherein the first and second magnets present a right angle adjacent the hinge axis.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge is not bistable.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 15 wherein the first and second magnets are elongated.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second plates incorporates means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel or transverse to the hinge axis.
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein said first and second magnets are non-circular.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein said first and second magnets are elongated.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein said first and second magnets are rectangular.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge axis extends tangentially to the peripheries of said first and second plates in both said closed and open orientations.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge axis extends intermediate the peripheries of said first and second plates in both said closed and open orientations.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein, in both said open and closed orientations, said first and second magnets are in essentially immediate physical contact.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge pin is virtual.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge axis does not increase the physical dimensions of said hinge.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge axis does not physically occupy space intermediate said plates.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein the hinge axis

neither increases the physical dimensions of said hinge nor physically occupies space intermediate said plates.

29. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a magnetic hinge defining a hinge axis, wherein the magnetic hinge comprising:
comprises

a. a first hinge plate of non-magnetic material;
b. at least a spaced apart pair of first magnets disposed in said first plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;

c. a second hinge plate of non-magnetic material; and
d. at least a spaced apart pair of second magnets disposed in said second plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;

said first and second plates being movable about the hinge axis between:

i. a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and each of said first magnets being generally parallel to and overlapping a respective one of said second magnets, and in the same magnetic orientation with respect thereto; and

ii. an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping, and each of said first magnets being generally parallel to and non-overlapping a respective one of said second magnets and in aligned but opposite magnetic orientations with respect thereto, said first and second magnets being coplanar and aligned along a common axis;

wherein the device further comprises a cosmetic associated with the second hinge plate.

30. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 29 wherein said first plate and said at least one pair of first magnets are readily manually separable from said second plate and said at least one pair of second magnets to deconstruct said hinge.

31. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 29 wherein said first plate and said at least one pair of first magnets are more readily manually separable from said second plate and said at least one pair of second magnets to deconstruct said hinge when said plates are in the open orientation than when said plates are in the closed orientation.

32. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 30 wherein said first plate and said at least one pair of first magnets are readily manually joinable with said second plate and said at least one pair of second magnets to reconstitute said hinge.

33. (Currently Amended) The hinge device of Claim 29 wherein, in both said open and closed orientations, said pair of first magnets and said pair of second magnets are in essentially immediate physical contact.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~hinge~~ device of Claim 1 wherein both said first and second magnets are disposed on only one side of said hinge when said plates are in said closed orientation, yet bias said plates to remain in said closed orientation.

35. (New) The device of Claim 1, further comprising another cosmetic associated with the first hinge plate.

36. (New) The device of Claim 1, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second hinge plates in both a first stacked arrangement in which a bottom of the first hinge plate faces a top of the second hinge plate, and a second stacked arrangement in which a top of the first hinge plate faces a bottom of the second hinge plate, and wherein the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second hinge plates to one another in both the first stacked arrangement and the second stacked arrangement.

37. (New) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a mirror associated with the first plate.

38. (New) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a third hinge plate and at least one third magnet disposed in the third hinge plate.

39. (New) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a pan, wherein the cosmetic is contained in the pan.

40. (New) A magnetic hinge defining a hinge axis, comprising:
- a. a first hinge plate of non-magnetic material;
 - b. at least one first magnet disposed in said first plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;
 - c. a second hinge plate of non-magnetic material; and
 - d. at least one second magnet disposed in said second plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;
- said first and second plates being movable about the hinge axis between:
- i. a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and
 - ii. an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping and in opposite magnetic orientations, said first and second magnets being coplanar and aligned along a common axis;
- wherein at least one of said first and second plates incorporates means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel to the hinge axis.

41. (New) The hinge of Claim 40, wherein the means for precluding comprises a projection extending from one of the plates and a groove or recess in the other of the plates.

42. (New) A device comprising the magnetic hinge of Claim 40, wherein the device further comprises a cosmetic associated with the second hinge plate.

43. (New) A magnetic hinge defining a hinge axis, comprising:

- a. a first hinge plate of non-magnetic material;
- b. at least one first magnet disposed in said first plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;
- c. a second hinge plate of non-magnetic material; and
- d. at least one second magnet disposed in said second plate adjacent the hinge axis for movement therewith;

said first and second plates being movable about the hinge axis between:

- i. a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and
- ii. an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping, and said first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping and in opposite magnetic orientations, said first and second magnets being coplanar and aligned along a common axis;

wherein said first and second magnets are rectangular.

44. (New) A device comprising:

- a first plate;
- at least one first magnet associated with the first plate;

a first cosmetic associated with the first plate;
a second plate;
at least one second magnet associated with the second plate; and
a second cosmetic associated with the second plate;
wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first
and second plates together such that the first and second magnets magnetically attract
the first plate and the second plate to one another.

45. (New) The device of Claim 44, further comprising a pan, wherein the first
cosmetic is contained in the pan.

46. (New) The device of Claim 45, wherein the first magnet magnetically
attracts the pan.

47. (New) The device of Claim 45, further comprising another pan, wherein
the second cosmetic is contained in the other pan.

48. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein one of the plates comprises a
recess for storage of a cosmetic applicator.

49. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein the device is configured so as to
permit stacking of the first and second plates in both a first stacked arrangement in
which a bottom of the first plate contacts a top of the second plate, and a second

stacked arrangement in which a top of the first plate contacts a bottom of the second plate, and wherein the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first stacked arrangement and the second stacked arrangement.

50. (New) The device of Claim 44, further comprising a third plate and a mirror associated with the third plate.

51. (New) The device of Claim 50, wherein the mirror is on an inner face of the third plate.

52. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein the device is configured so as to permit movement of the first plate with respect to the second plate between a first position in which the first plate covers the second plate to limit access to the second cosmetic, and a second position in which access to the second cosmetic is permitted, and wherein the device is configured so that the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first position and the second position.

53. (New) The device of Claim 52, wherein said movement comprises pivotal movement about a hinge axis.

54. (New) The device of Claim 53, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel to the hinge axis.

55. (New) The device of Claim 53, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof transverse to the hinge axis.

56. (New) The device of Claim 53, wherein the hinge axis extends tangentially to the peripheries of the first and second plates in both the first and second positions.

57. (New) The device of Claim 52, wherein, in the first position, the first and second plates are disposed in two parallel planes.

58. (New) The device of Claim 52, wherein, in the second position, the first and second plates are disposed in a common plane.

59. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein the device is configured such that the first and second plates are movable about a hinge axis between a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping.

60. (New) The device of Claim 59, wherein the device is configured such that in the closed orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and the device is configured such that in the open orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping, in opposite magnetic orientations, coplanar, and aligned along a common axis.

61. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein the at least one first magnet comprises a pair of first magnets, and the at least one second magnet comprises a pair of second magnets.

62. (New) A device comprising:

a first plate;

at least one first magnet associated with the first plate;

a second plate;

at least one second magnet associated with the second plate; and

a cosmetic associated with the second plate;

wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates in both a first stacked arrangement in which a bottom of the first plate faces a top of the second plate, and a second stacked arrangement in which a top of the first plate faces a bottom of the second plate; and

wherein the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first stacked arrangement and the second stacked arrangement.

63. (New) The device of Claim 62, further comprising a pan, wherein the cosmetic is contained in the pan.

64. (New) The device of Claim 63, wherein the second magnet magnetically attracts the pan.

65. (New) The device of Claim 62, wherein one of the plates comprises a recess for storage of a cosmetic applicator.

66. (New) The device of Claim 62, further comprising a third plate and a mirror associated with the third plate.

67. (New) The device of Claim 66, wherein the mirror is on an inner face of the third plate.

68. (New) The device of Claim 62, wherein the device is configured so as to permit movement of the first plate with respect to the second plate between a first position in which the first plate covers the second plate to limit access to the cosmetic, and a second position in which access to the cosmetic is permitted, and wherein the

device is configured so that the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first position and the second position.

69. (New) The device of Claim 68, wherein said movement comprises pivotal movement about a hinge axis.

70. (New) The device of Claim 69, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel to the hinge axis.

71. (New) The device of Claim 69, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof transverse to the hinge axis.

72. (New) The device of Claim 69, wherein the hinge axis extends tangentially to the peripheries of the first and second plates in both the first and second positions.

73. (New) The device of Claim 68, wherein, in the first position, the first and second plates are disposed in two parallel planes.

74. (New) The device of Claim 68, wherein, in the second position, the first and second plates are disposed in a common plane.

75. (New) The device of Claim 62, wherein the device is configured such that the first and second plates are movable about a hinge axis between a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping.

76. (New) The device of Claim 75, wherein the device is configured such that in the closed orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and the device is configured such that in the open orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping, in opposite magnetic orientations, coplanar, and aligned along a common axis.

77. (New) The device of Claim 62, wherein the at least one first magnet comprises a pair of first magnets, and the at least one second magnet comprises a pair of second magnets.

78. (New) A device comprising:

a first plate;

at least one first magnet associated with the first plate;

a mirror associated with the first plate;

a second plate;

at least one second magnet associated with the second plate; and

a cosmetic associated with the second plate;

wherein the device is configured so as to permit movement of the first plate with respect to the second plate between a first position in which the first plate covers the second plate to limit access to the cosmetic, and a second position in which access to the cosmetic is permitted; and

wherein the device is configured so that the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first position and the second position.

79. (New) The device of Claim 78, further comprising a pan, wherein the cosmetic is contained in the pan.

80. (New) The device of Claim 79, wherein the second magnet magnetically attracts the pan.

81. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the second plate comprises a recess for storage of a cosmetic applicator.

82. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates in both a first stacked arrangement in which a bottom of the first plate contacts a top of the second plate, and a second stacked arrangement in which a top of the first plate contacts a bottom of the second plate, and wherein the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and

second plates to one another in both the first stacked arrangement and the second stacked arrangement.

83. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the mirror is on an inner face of the first plate.

84. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein said movement comprises pivotal movement about a hinge axis.

85. (New) The device of Claim 84, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel to the hinge axis.

86. (New) The device of Claim 84, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof transverse to the hinge axis.

87. (New) The device of Claim 84, wherein the hinge axis extends tangentially to the peripheries of the first and second plates in both the first and second positions.

88. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein, in the first position, the first and second plates are disposed in two parallel planes.

89. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein, in the second position, the first and second plates are disposed in a common plane.

90. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein in the first position the first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and in the second position the first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping.

91. (New) The device of Claim 90, wherein the device is configured such that in the first position the first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and the device is configured such that in the second position the first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping, in opposite magnetic orientations, coplanar, and aligned along a common axis.

92. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the at least one first magnet comprises a pair of first magnets, and the at least one second magnet comprises a pair of second magnets.

93. (New) A device comprising:

a first plate;

at least one first magnet associated with the first plate;

a second plate;

at least one second magnet associated with the second plate;
a third plate;
at least a third magnet associated with the third plate; and
a cosmetic associated with one of the plates;
wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the
first, second, and third plates together such that the first and second magnets
magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another and the second and third
magnets magnetically attract the second and third plates to one another.

94. (New) The device of Claim 93, further comprising a pan, wherein the
cosmetic is contained in the pan.

95. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein one of the plates comprises a
recess for storage of a cosmetic applicator.

96. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein the device is configured so as to
permit stacking of the first and second plates in both a first stacked arrangement in
which a bottom of the first plate contacts a top of the second plate, and a second
stacked arrangement in which a top of the first plate contacts a bottom of the second
plate, and wherein the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and
second plates to one another in both the first stacked arrangement and the second
stacked arrangement.

97. (New) The device of Claim 93, further comprising a mirror associated with one of the plates.

98. (New) The device of Claim 97, wherein the mirror is on an inner face of one of the plates.

99. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein the device is configured so as to permit movement of the first plate with respect to the second plate between a first position in which the first plate covers the second plate to limit access to the cosmetic, and a second position in which access to the cosmetic is permitted, and wherein the device is configured so that the first and second magnets magnetically attract the first and second plates to one another in both the first position and the second position.

100. (New) The device of Claim 99, wherein said movement comprises pivotal movement about a hinge axis.

101. (New) The device of Claim 100, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof parallel to the hinge axis.

102. (New) The device of Claim 100, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for precluding relative sliding movement thereof transverse to the hinge axis.

103. (New) The device of Claim 100, wherein the hinge axis extends tangentially to the peripheries of the first and second plates in both the first and second positions.

104. (New) The device of Claim 99, wherein, in the first position, the first and second plates are disposed in two parallel planes.

105. (New) The device of Claim 99, wherein, in the second position, the first and second plates are disposed in a common plane.

106. (New) The device of Claim 92, wherein the device is configured such that the first and second plates are movable about a hinge axis between a closed orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially overlapping, and an open orientation wherein said first and second plates are generally parallel and at least partially non-overlapping.

107. (New) The device of Claim 106, wherein the device is configured such that in the closed orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, overlapping and in the same magnetic orientation, and the device is configured such that in the open orientation the first and second magnets are generally parallel, non-overlapping, in opposite magnetic orientations, coplanar, and aligned along a common axis.

108. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein the at least one first magnet comprises a pair of first magnets, the at least one second magnet comprises a pair of second magnets, and the at least one third magnet comprises a pair of third magnets.

109. (New) The device of Claim 44, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the device is configured so as to permit relative pivotal movement of the first and second plates about an axis perpendicular to the stacking direction.

110. (New) The device of Claim 53, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the hinge axis is perpendicular to the stacking direction.

111. (New) The device of Claim 62, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the device is configured so as to permit relative pivotal movement of the first and second plates about an axis perpendicular to the stacking direction.

112. (New) The device of Claim 69, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the hinge axis is perpendicular to the stacking direction.

113. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the device is configured so as to permit relative pivotal movement of the first and second plates about an axis perpendicular to the stacking direction.

114. (New) The device of Claim 78, wherein the device is configured to permit pivotal movement of the first plate in a plane perpendicular to a plane defined by the second plate.

115. (New) The device of Claim 84, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first and second plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the hinge axis is perpendicular to the stacking direction.

116. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first, second, and third plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the device is configured so as to permit relative pivotal movement of the first and second plates about an axis perpendicular to the stacking direction.

117. (New) The device of Claim 93, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first, second, and third plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the device is configured so as to permit relative pivotal movement of the first, second, and third plates about axes perpendicular to the stacking direction.

118. (New) The device of Claim 100, wherein the device is configured so as to permit stacking of the first, second, and third plates together in a stacking direction, and wherein the hinge axis is perpendicular to the stacking direction.